

# Montyne View-Master Artist

by J. Clement

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Montyne, Sherman LaMont Sudbury, was briefly a contract artist for View-Master. He only created 3 three reel packets, "Tarzan of the Apes", "Beetle Bailey", and the Woody Woodpecker Show. All of these packets were very innovative and different. Beetle Bailey and Woody Woodpecker had paper cutouts molded and painted to give depth. Some fully sculpted objects were used in the dioramas. This gave the scenes a very cartoon like appearance.

Tarzan of the Apes by contrast had fully sculpted figures and realistic dioramas, with some paper cutouts. Montyne sculpted the young Tarzan in anatomically correct realistic nudity. The fight scenes were bloody and looked violent. The View-Master management was not pleased according to Wolfgang Sell. These two factors together may have contributed to Montyne's contract not being renewed. The nudity was not full frontal, and was no more sensational that what could be seen on the beach or in "classical" reliefs on many US buildings. It has a spectacular scene, with awesome depth, of Tarzan flying through the trees.

Montyne was born in 1916 and died in 1989. He showed early talent, but was frail and sickly. He studied anatomy with medical students and became a physical culturist. He became an athlete and performed for a while in a physically demanding circus act. He traveled the world, authored a book, View-Master reels, and a number of diverse art works. Some of his art works were stolen by Las Vegas thugs, and he was gipped out of an extensive commission payment. He had a great interest in 3D art. He died in his son's arms after an illness. (Information culled from the Official Montyne web site.)



B5181 Beetle Bailey in Eight-Ball Anyone 4 Beetle drew the cue back and-- "O-ohmph!"  
Restoration by J. Clement with titles added in cartoon style

Originally these scenes were attributed to Martha Armstrong and Blanding Sloan by Wolfgang Sell. However, the strong resemblance to the Beetle Bailey style suggested Montyne. According to Wolfgang no other artists worked in the same style. Since the two packets were created one year apart the attribution to Montyne was reasonable. Martha was a specialist in realistic articulated dolls, but the figures in these reels seem to be all individually crafted, so it is unlikely to be her work. Other View-Master artists may have also worked on these dioramas. Reel B5081 was omitted from reissues, probably due to the busty singer in the low-cut gown.



1964 B5081 1 Woody Woodpecker in Sheriff for a Day –  
"Buzz Buzzard, the outlaw, is coming!" Cactus yelled



1964 B5082 7 Andy Panda in Beaver Builders –  
"You can't beat beaver builders," Andy wailed.





1964 B5083 3 Chilly Willy in Flying Penguin –  
 "Swimming is good for you," Sidney laughed at Chilly



B444 Tarzan 06 Inside he found a knife -- and he learned to read books





B444 Tarzan 10 Mad with rage Kerchak fought to the death with Tarzan  
 The knife was created by Frank Visage according to Wolfgang Sell  
 Frank also worked on the dioramas



B444 Tarzan 16 Tarzan leapt through the trees in wild pursuit  
 This scene has astounding depth in 3D, but is actually only 1m deep (3 ft) (Wikipedia)

Bibliography: *View-Master Memories* by Mary Ann & Wolfgang Sell

View-Master packets by Montyne:

1. 1963 B518 Beetle Bailey
2. 1964 B508 Woody Woodpecker, Sheriff for A Day; Andy Panda, Beaver Builders; Chilly Willy, Flying Penguins – Later reissues of the packet has reel 820 labeled B5084 1951 by Wah Chang.
3. 1968 B444 Tarzan of the Apes